The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1100. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1932 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 22, NO. 9.

Deadly poisons are often concealed under sweet honey.—Ovid.

The Rising Cost of Government

For months the people of the United States have been bombarded with propaganda regarding the alleged menace of the increasing cost of Government.

We have been told that the interest of the taxpayers demand that appropriations for the administration of Government institutions be drastically reduced. In many instances the propaganda comes from antilabor employers who have main contribution to our social life consists in endeavoring to bring about wholesale debasement of the living standards of the working people by drastic wage cuts.

People who are caught by this propaganda overlook the fact that no small part of the increased cost of Government comes from the necessity of protecting the masses of the people from the greed of the money changers who are loudest in the tax-reduction demand.

A striking instance of this is found in a recent event in the District of Columbia.

A man and his wife were killed in their home by carbon monoxide gas escaping from a hot-water heater without a flue outlet into the chimney.

The coroner's inquest revealed that the plumbing contractor had failed to make an opening from the chimney crack into the flue lining. This neglect provided no escape for the gas, which backed up into the room and killed the couple.

It was also revealed that a number of houses in which the plumbing was installed in the same contractor had the same flue defect. The only reason the occupants of all of those houses were not killed was the fact that the others did not use gas heaters. The plumbing inspector testified that a large number of gas heaters had been installed in residences without any inspection "other than the casual visual inspection which may be given by the building inspectors." He said his inspectors had not received sufficient assistance to remove the pipes to examine chimneys. It was assumed that plumbing contractors knew their business and made proper flue connections.

As a result of the facts revealed at the coroner's inquest the District Commissioners, in order to prevent further fatal accidents caused by faulty gas pipe connections on heaters, issued an order providing that flue pipes from gas water heaters shall not be connected until the flue has been inspected and approved by an inspector in the office of the inspector of plumbing.

The plumbing inspector said that the administration of the new rule would require the employment of additional inspectors.

The employment of the additional inspectors will increase the cost of government in the District of Columbia.

The increase has been brought about by the necessity of having representatives of the people survey the work of building contractors in order that the occupants of buildings shall not be killed by the failure of contractors to properly install plumbing appliances.

An honest survey would reveal that a considerable portion of the increase in the cost of government has been made necessary by tragedies similar to the one which caused the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to increase the number of its plumbing inspectors.

It is needless to add that the people will insist that the social welfare and the public welfare activities of Federal, State and municipal governments shall not be curtailed to satisfy the sophisms of the lower-cost-of-government propagandists.

Robert G. Ingersoll and Labor

The ashes of Robert G. Ingersoll were buried in Arlington Cemetery, within sight of the Nation's capital, on May 4. The name rest in Arlington is because of his military service in the Civil War.

The occasion will recall to labor leaders the glowing tribute that great orator paid to the workers in their age-old struggle for liberty.

He died in 1899. The guiding principle of his philosophy was "that no nation founded upon slavery, either of body or mind—will long stand."

He clearly saw that the unequal distribution of wealth constitutes the major element in the downfall of civilizations and the servitude of the toilers. Among his utterances we find this crisp truth:

"Whoever produces anything by weary labor, does not need a revelation from heaven to teach him that he has a right to the product."

Ingersoll saw many thirty years before the revolutionary introduction of labor-displacing machinery and the equally revolutionary increase in the wealth-producing capacity of the workers as the result of machinery performing its tasks. He visioned even then the truth so apparent today that machinery is not a social blessing when the increased wealth resulting from its use is appropriated by those who own machinery instead of being made available to the hours of labor of those who do the work or increase in their wages to enable them to enjoy larger and better standards of living.

Here is what he said on labor-displacing machinery and its relation to the workers:

"Just as life becomes more complex and as every one is trying to accomplish certain objects, all the ingenuity of the brain is at work to get there by a shorter way, and, in consequence, this has been an age of invention. Myriads of machines have been made—every one of them to save labor. If these machines helped the laborer, what a blessing they would be! But the laborer does not own the machines. They own him. That is the trouble. * * * We have got into that contest between machines and men, and if extravagance does not keep pace with invention it is going to be the most destructive contest that man has ever settled."

If Ingersoll were alive today he would substitute "purchasing power" for "extravagance" and "wealth production" for "ingenuity," so that the last sentence in the quotation would read:

"We have got into that contest between machines and men, and if purchasing power does not keep pace with production it is going to be the most destructive contest that man has ever settled."

The "terrible question" predicted by Ingersoll is here. We have nearly nine million workers totally unemployed—a condition that is unparalleled in any other period in the history of the nations furnished by charity organizations, and their inability to meet the situation has come with the consequent lowered living standards.

The "terrible question" is not only here, but it is unsolved. Those who own and control our business institutions have no remedy of their own to offer and refuse to accept the shorter work week and work day demanded by Labor to provide jobs to apply the shorter work week and work day demanded by Labor to provide jobs for all the unemployed with wages high enough to permit the workers to buy the increasing portions of the ever-increasing production of wealth which is largely produced by them.

The millions of jobless are living under an insufferable form of slavery. This condition must be ended. Ancient civilizations fell because larger and larger portions of the population became slaves. If American civilization is not to take a similar course, unemployment must be ended.

"Equal Rights" for Women Workers

The National Woman's Party is still carrying on propaganda in favor of its so-called "equal rights" amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The object of the party's pro-amendment activities in this direction is the adoption of a resolution urging President Hoover to support their proposal.

The outstanding feature of the amendment is the repeal of all laws that protect women in industry. Over a long period of years Organized Labor has participated in securing the enactment of a large number of State laws protecting women workers against the greed of profit-wealth production. It is ready to impose working conditions that are unjust to their women employes and an insult to the social conscience.

These laws limit the hours of work, prohibit night work, and establish minimum scales of wages.

The Equal Rights amendment to the Federal Constitution would take away from the States this power to provide legal protection for women wage earners.

The American Federation of Labor emphatically condemns the amendment as destructive of the legislation which is necessary to guard women workers against industrial conditions that would be highly detrimental to their welfare.

It is improbable that President Hoover will lend his support to such an anti-social proposal.

Holding Companies Menace Public Welfare, Ripley Says

"The holding corporation and all the mix-up of inter-company contracts and leases must be brought into broad print at all costs," Professor W. Z. Ripley of Harvard University in the May issue of the Atlantic Monthly, the official magazine of the American Federation of Labor, declares.

"All the accounts of great corporations, involving the welfare of millions of people, and being the embodiment of the thrift and savings of the nation, should be made to conform promptly," he says. "They should become plain and intelligible to all at all times open to public inspection.

"Organization thrives upon secrecy. The time has come when the Government of the United States should insist upon the publicity of them. The States cannot do it. It must be done, if at all, by the Federal Government.

"For half a century," Prof. Ripley points out, "the corporation, instead of one of the type of partnerships in industrial organization, it was a standing rule at law that no such artificial body might continue to hold stock in another artificial body. At all times open to public inspection.

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"The device for this prohibition was that otherwise the express permission from the State in a charter of one company, to do certain things and no other things, would authorize any of them or each another corporation either as an arm or as a cat's paw. Four in that event, as some one once said it, There would be no end to the damned thing."

New Jersey Started Holding Companies

"A new charter opened out in 1889, when New Jersey, for the sake of the attendant fees, permitted its corporations by charter to invest indiscriminately in other companies. For all there were no fees to pay. All that the expenses were paid by the rush of corporations all over the country to secure this unique privilege. But this financial paradise was rudely shattered when Delaware, Maryland, Maine, West Virginia, and what not, raised the bid and added yet other immunities and privileges.

"A holding company has been frightfully misused as part and parcel of the great boom which hallooed the prosperous years 1927-29. Its two worst manifestations were in the public-utility business and in investment trusts."

Bankers in Control

"The holding company has also played ducks and drakes with the railroads," Professor Ripley asserts.

"It was no difference under these modern conditions whether things go well or ill, the banker is always sure to win. If they go well, he takes a wide step in promotion. It is he, indeed, who fathered the present-day Public Service securities and personified in Mr. Dick, and especially the Widows Smith and Jones all over the land to buy them. But the control is there still. That remains with the promoter.

"On the other hand, as in these drab, present days, suppose the adventure fails! What happens? Then up bobs the banker, this time as head of a reorganization committee. And before the unfortunate owners know it, their public-utility combination—a put on its feet, with the promoter interested, he is still more capital from all over the land, meaning fees, retainers his bold upon management policy, just the same."

Furloughs for Wives Whose Husbands Work Criticized

Washington.—Officials of the National Woman's Party condemned the action of President Willard of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad for issuing instructions that married women employes whose husbands are working should be furloughed. The resolution asked Willard to reconsider the action, which was described as "sex discrimination against married women."

The resolution also condemned a similar proposal now pending in Congress with regard to married women in the Federal Service. The party officials believe the policy will promote immorality and break up the home affected.

New Promotion Rule Will Benefit Federal Workers

Washington.—The U. S. Civil Service Commission announced that hereafter employes in the Government service will be given preference in filling vacancies in higher positions.

The ruling was recommended by the Council of Personnel Administration, recently created by President Hoover. One of the functions of the council is to fill the higher positions by transfer rather than by original appointment. It is claimed this new policy extends career possibilities in the Federal Service.

VIRGINIA LABOR FEDERATION ASKS VOTE ON PROHIBITION

Morrison Stresses Five-Day Week to Relieve Unemployment — Colpoys Says 2.75 Beer Would Provide Work for 300,000 Jobless.

Alexandria, Va.—The annual convention of the Virginia State Federation of Labor asked Congress to enact legislation to legalize beer, provide for a referendum on the national prohibition question.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, outlined the labor movement at length on the imperative necessity of inaugurating the five-day week for the relief of unemployment.

Congressman Lankford of Norfolk told the convention he favored the five-day week and believed in the American standard of living. He said the five-day week offered a solution of the surplus labor problem represented by the unemployed army.

The shorter week movement was stressed by Vic Allman, of the United Garment Workers. He said the tariff industries should be told that unless they consent to shorter work periods the protective barriers will be removed.

E. C. Davidson, of Mt. Ida, Va., secretary and treasurer of the International Association of Machinists, and Ira Delegate, Inc., of Alexandria on behalf of the Northern Virginia Union members.

C. L. Rosemund of Washington, president of the International Association of Electrical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Union, discussed labor leadership and the need for discipline in labor organizations.

John H. Colpoys, secretary-treasurer of Labor's National Committee for the Modification of the Volstead Act, told the legislature 2.75 beer would put 300,000 people to work.

Charles J. Hendley, also addressed, a member of the International Typographical Union, was elected president of the State body, succeeding J. Fred, Cherry of Norfolk was chosen delegate to the convention of the American Federation of Labor.

WOLL URGES LEGISLATION TO REMEDY RED MENACE

Washington.—Matthew Woll, acting president of the National Civic Federation, urged support of legislation empowering the U. S. Department of Justice to deport aliens found with alleged communistic subversive movements in a letter to Chairman Dickstein of the House Judiciary Committee.

Accompanying Woll's letter was a report by Ralph M. Easley, chairman of the executive council of the Federation, on a survey of outrages perpetrated during the last four months in the United States.

"A study of the communistic literature published in English and foreign languages here and abroad," Woll wrote, "leads to the conviction that a definite plan of destructive action is being organized for the overthrow of civilized countries.

"Unless prompt and vigorous action is taken to give our Government this needed power," Woll declared, "the Communist Party will become impotent to defend itself against any or all forces seeking its destruction."

The Judiciary Committee has before it legislation proposed by Dickstein, a Jew of New York, former chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, to give the Justice Department authority to investigate and prosecute subversive activities of all kinds directed against the Government.

Massachusetts Radical Jobless Make Demands of State Officials

Boston. — Approximately 500 unemployed demonstrators from various sections of Massachusetts marched to the heavily guarded State House and sent a delegation of five, headed by Gaspar C. Bacon, president of the State Senate, to confer with Governor Joseph B. Ely in behalf of a special session of the Legislature to enact unemployment relief legislation.

Their resolutions prepared for Gov. Ely asked immediate appropriation for the relief of the employers and State government: immediate relief of the 1931 tax rate; relief by paid pending the passage of the insurance measure; this money to be taken from the salaries of all State officials to $2,000 a year; the transference of funds from the military and police purposes, and by suspending payments on the soldiers' bonus.

The unemployment relief program also included the following measures: Legislation providing for tearing down all slum dwellings and the erection of low-rent houses to be rented at low cost, and entirely free to the unemployed.

D. of C. Commissioners Send Wage Rate Dispute to Court

Washington.—The Commissioners of the District of Columbia declined to continue the adjustment of disputed wage rates between organized workers and contractors on public works. The controversy, which the Building Trades Council it could take its complaint against A. Lloyd Goode, Inc., of Charlotte, N. C., a contractor erecting a public school building in the District. The Council claimed a number of workmen had not been paid the prevailing wage in accordance with the Bacon-Kelly law.

Previous wage determinations of this character were settled by District officials, and the contractors involved in the disputes were required to difference between what they had received and the prevailing wage for the District.

Old-Age Pensions Asked For District of Columbia

Washington.—Delegates representing 12 social agencies in the District of Columbia urged the Senate District Committee to report the bill introduced by Senator Capper of Kansas, to provide old-age pensions. At present old people without means are sent to the poorhouse, the delegates told the committee. A Senate Committee on the District of Columbia.

Senate Beer Bill Condemned And Approved in Reports

Washington.—Wide divergence of views on the beer question was shown in the majority and minority reports of the Senate Manufactures committee on the proposal to legalize the manufacture and sale of four per cent beer.

A committee majority of seven, in a report prepared by Senator Blaine, of Wisconsin, La Follette, of Wisconsin, declared it would "add to enforcement difficulties, to retard reform and to add economic recovery."

A minority of four, in a statement prepared by Senator Metcalf of Rhode Island, declared that beer would help prohibition enforcement and provide both revenue and employment. It denounced prohibition as a failure and said that "driving the people to hard liquors with a resultant increase in drunkenness, death from alcoholism and general lawlessness."

The minority group estimated that immediate employment would be given to a minimum of 500,000 persons and possibly more than 1,000,000 within a brief period following the passage of legislation. It also declared that the Government would derive an annual revenue of around $1,100,000,000 from beer taxes.

$1,500,000,000 Public Works Loan Urged by Contractors

Washington.—The governing board of the Associated General Contractors of America recommends a $1,500,000,000 Federal bond issue to finance public works, the money to be lent to States, cities and other civic agencies for the construction of self-liquidating projects.

A "productive reconstruction work corporation," to be financed by Government funds, would minister the bond issue proceeds.

The governing board reached the conclusion that many States and lesser civic agencies are willing but unable to float bond issues for public improvements, and that they will do so provided the work can be had at low interest rates. It is believed the credit of the Federal Government would be sufficient enough to enable it to float the loan at a low interest rate.

Socialist Labor Party Picks Reynolds for President

New York.—The National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party nominated Verne L. Reynolds, a former steamfitter, as its candidate for President of the United States. J. W. Aiken of Boston was nominated for Vice President.

HOUSE RAISES PAY CUT EXEMPTION TO $2,500

Final Vote Also Preserves Saturday Half Holiday—Senate Is Expected to Remove Inequities of the Bill.

Washington.—The final vote of the House of Representatives on the Federal pay cut measure exempted salaries up to $2,500 from the 11 per cent slash and preserved the Saturday half holiday. The vote on the $2,500 exemption was 229 to 153, and on the Saturday half holiday it was 232 to 132.

In its final vote the House suspended automatic pay increases, made the retirement, of superannuated employes compulsory, abolished extra pay for overtime, and reduced certain traveling and subsistence allowances.

The measure was sent to the Senate, where the friends of labor hope it will be amended to remove such inequities as the abolition of extra pay for overtime work.

Senator Wagner Endorses Unemployment Insurance

Washington.—In an individual report of the special Senate committee to investigate methods to alleviate unemployment, Senator Wagner of New York recommended compulsory unemployment insurance of wage receivers to be regulated under State authority.

Senator Wagner pointed out that his plan does not mean that the States must operate the unemployment insurance, but encourages them, but that "the employer is under statutory duty to provide insurance or to reserves to protect his employes against a stated period of unemployment." Under his scheme the Federal Government would contribute by allowing employers to deduct from their income tax a portion of their payments into the unemployment reserves.

Deportation of 2,000 Idle Indiana Mexicans Is Plan

Hammond, Ind.—What to do with 2 000 jobless Mexicans whom the employers here have used to break the unionized strikes is a problem for the officials of the county. Judge Maurice E. Crumpacker, in the circuit court, has been presented to the county board a plan whereby the Mexicans could be deported to Mexico at less cost than it would be to feed them for a year by barity. He said the United States Government would supervise the transportation of the Mexicans to the border, where the Mexican Government would take charge of them.

Congress Should Not Obey Employers' Demand for Federal Pay Reductions

By HON. EDMUND F. COOKE
Member of Congress from Virginia

(From a speech in opposition to the bill sponsored by the Economy Committee of the House of Representatives, which sought to impose an 11 per cent pay reduction on Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year.)

We are confronted by the question of satisfying in some degree the great body of the people throughout this country, and the great body of the people throughout this country consists of the working people, who are entitled to relief from the present wage reduction among Federal employes.

I am not in favor of any demand for a reduction comes from the employers throughout the United States, and I say to you that while little tranquility we are enjoying at the present time, and what little of prosperity is left for the American people are not attributable to the present administration. Under the powers of finance and industry responsible for that depression.

Folly of Victimizing the Workers

It is not due to our railroad leaders but our great railroads, but it is due to the men who work with their hands, who toil upon the railroads, who are the real railroad builders of America.

We are going to discourage and disappoint the people of this country today by saying to them that we are going to make them bear the wages of this great army that I believe stands as one of the most dependable defenses in the last against depression in this country?

Are we going to take an army of 700,000 people, the only great group of people in the United States today enjoying any degree of prosperity, and say that as laboring conditions are concerned, and remove a part of their wages to the ranks of the unemployed and dissatisfy the balance?

Are you going to satisfy by that all the employers of labor throughout the country, so that they may cite this as a precedent for the lowering of wages in private industry?

Support A. F. of L. Leadership

I care no more for the Government employe than I care for the man in private industry, but I do care for the man, the workingman, it is the American Federation of Labor, through its leadership, the common men, through their leadership, that have made possible the Government we have today.

We must realize that through the breasts of men in this country there must be a spirit today demanding that something be done; demanding that they have some opportunity for this great country apart from that dictated here in Washington.

I say to you that unless we give some kind of hope, some kind of relief to the people of this Nation before we adjourn, that we believe there in the hearts of the American people more in upholding their rights and their jobs and their standard of living than the leaders of the people, both Democrats and Republicans, this fall with a feeling that we are not having done for the people we represent the things that should have been done.

Wage Cuts Spares, Shorten Hours

Mr. Chairman, I believe that in the same and sensible consideration of this question, this Congress will look upon the question of wage reduction in a fair and just light: that we are going to be the first employed here that we will do as the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. Woodruff] has suggested, instead of adding to the number of unemployed, that we will shorten the hours of labor, and put more people to work. We are going to try to restore prosperity by the only method you can use at any time, by raising purchasing power, and that is to give people the wherewithal to buy the things that make for prosperity.

Pay Cut Boosts Federal Employes' Tax 200 Per Cent, Embezzles Their Income

By HON. LORING M. BLACK, JR.
Member of Congress from New York

(From a speech in opposition to the bill, sponsored by the Economy Committee of the House of Representatives, which sought to impose an 11 per cent pay reduction on Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year.)

I challenge any man or member of the House, or member of the Economy Committee, to prove to this House that a wage reduction will be the only way out of this crisis.

Look at the experience of Europe in reduction of wages, the deflation which has been brought to them. I ask you to look at the experience of private industry if industry is what happened to the coal, the iron and steel, the railroad industries, and I say to you that the Economy Committee that these wage cuts are only adding to America deeper in the pits, and I plead to you to kill this rule, which is not polishing the floor, but it is undermining the foundation of this body. Let us carefully consider this question before we act.

Wage Cuts Injure Business

The present business depression, dating from the stock market crash of November, 1929, has been a world-wide economic entrenchment. Salary slashing has been the order of the day, resulting finally in a vicious circle of wage cuts, lessened consumption, and declining production.

It is a familiar story. The record is so complete that none can disregard it. The succeeding wage cut has made matters worse, benefiting no one and injuring all.

Unemployment and Destitution

Moreover, in the past seven years every European nation that followed the policy of wage-cutting policy, and with exactly the same results. There is no exception to the rule. Unemployment, misery and destitution, declining production volume and investment returns, higher taxes, reduced public revenues, and disorganized business generally have followed in the wake of wage reductions. The record is complete, and all who run may read.

The coal miners have suffered sharp reduction in wages. More recently the employes in the iron and steel industries had their wages cut, and still more recently the railroad workers. Instead of that, the Democrats are becoming more determined to put the burden of the depression upon the backs of the workers.

Our party is playing with dynamite in this House of Representatives, which would be the taxpayers of the country against us. Now we have on this floor the employed here by industry against us. In other words, we insist on putting the burden of taxation upon them.

We are creating at this time a new and dangerous class in the United States. Do you know? By legislative fiat, if you want to call it that, but I think it is more than that. What is happening here? The White House and Congress began a few days ago to do something constructive for the relief of a thing constructive for the relief of unemployment. Now either the White House or the Congressional leaders—they began to do it—the Democratic leaders—have sought short without a plan.

They confer on fooling the public and fooling each other, and now they have got a bear by the tail and they do not know what to do with it, and then he trumped us, and now look where we are.

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Wage Cuts Increase Jobless, Injure Business, Decrease Property Values

By HON. JAMES M. MEAD
Member of Congress from New York

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Labor Broadcasts

The following is the program for May 8 to May 29 of the radio addresses of "American Labor and the Nation" given under the auspices of the National Advisory Council on Radio in Education, with the cooperation of the American Federation of Labor and the Workers Education Bureau of America:

May 8.—How Labor Rose from Slavery. Victor A. Olander, secretary of the Illinois State Federation of Labor.

May 15.—How Modern Industry Came to America. John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer, Metal Trades Department, American Federation of Labor.

May 22.—The Role of Labor in American History. Powers Hapgood, secretary-treasurer, United Mine Workers of America.

May 29.—A Hundred Years of the Labor Movement. Thomas E. Burke, secretary-treasurer, United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters of the United States and Canada.

The addresses are broadcast over a nation-wide hook-up of the Columbia Broadcasting System on Sundays from 1 to 1:30 p. m. eastern daylight saving time.

Washington Landlords Gouge Tenants, Capper Charges

Washington.—The threat of Senator Capper, who is chairman of the committee to investigate alleged exorbitant rents in the District of Columbia, with the suggestion that the warrant rent commissioners be revived, brought loads of letters from tenants complaining of the gouging and numerous denials of rent gouging from individual and corporation landlords.

Information collected by Senator Capper, who is chairman of the Senate committee on the District of Columbia, indicated that landlords were using the depression as an excuse for the depression far above the prices of other commodities making up the worker's necessary budget.

Washington Carpenters Strike Against Wage Cut

Washington.—The Carpenters' District Council here has called a strike against a 10 per cent wage cut order issued by the Manufacturers' Industrial Relations Bureau. The employers undertook to knock it down by a mandatory order to the building trades. The local union officials said the strike would be directed by the national office of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, whose representative was already here.

Green Declares Organized Labor Fights Pay Reductions and Seeks To Maintain Living Standards

President of A. F. of L., in Radio Broadcast, Traces Labor's Contribution to Civilization—Condemns Employers' Refusal to Recognize the Right to Work and Insists That Justice Demands Reduction in Hours of Labor.

Washington.—"Today the organized labor movement of the United States is fighting to maintain American standards of living, to establish humane conditions of employment, and to protect human values," declared William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a radio address on "Labor's Contribution to American Civilization." The address, the first of a series on "American Labor and the Nation," was broadcast over the Columbia system.

"The events of the last few weeks," Mr. Green said, "have brought us to a keen realization of how easy it is to destroy standards of life and living which have been established through years of struggle and effort.

Society Injured by Pay Slashes

"Unfortunately there are those who believe that the highest and best interests of the Nation will be served through the reduction of wages, reductions and the lowering of living standards.

"Labor resists and opposes the pursuit of such a policy. It is convinced that injury to all is bound to follow the destruction of the buying and consuming power of the masses of the people.

"In fighting to preserve humane American living standards we are laboring for the protection of all that is best in our social and economic life. It is indecent homes, for the exercise of the right to work and for the creation and maintenance of opportunities for hours of winners and wage earners to discharge their obligations in their families and their communities fully and completely.

Shorter Hours Necessary

"Experience in the introduction and use of machinery and power has made Labor conscious of the fact that a more equitable distribution of the benefits of improved machinery, as between employer and employe, must be made and is rightfully demanded. Hours of day worked per week and the hours worked per day must be brought about if unemployment is to be eradicated."

Workers Under Hand-Labor

Mr. Green traced the contributions made by labor through the development of our industrial, political and social institutions through the hand-labor system of production and the present machine age.

"During the hand-labor era," he said, "the tools which were used were made and operated by hand and goods and services were produced by hand labor.

As a result of this training men and women became skilled and highly efficient.

"Workers were constantly seeking to improve methods of production and to lessen the drudgery and fatigue which this activity many inventions and technical appliances were originated and produced.

"As is true of all civilizations great progress was made over a definite period of years, but with the advent of power driven machinery, the factory, machinery and power the civilization of our own times has become retarded and unable to accord employers and management to establish economic equilibrium in the production and use of manufactured commodities.

Right to Work

"It would be difficult to appraise the loss in human values which will inevitably follow the flagrant disregard of the economic and social right of men and women to be accorded employment in order to earn their living.

"This is the acute problem which modern civilization faces and which Labor emphasizes in all its educational and economic activities.

"We hold that the welfare of the human race, the protection of the institutions and the advancement and preservation of our civilization largely depend upon the right solution of the economic problem of unemployment which has become serious and which has grown out of the revolutionary change from hand labor to mechanical production and from individual skill to monotonous repetition."

Labor and Social Welfare

Mr. Green emphasized not only Labor's contribution to the material side of our civilization, but also its participation in the spiritual, intellectual and educational growth of the Nation.

"It has led in the advocacy of social and economic reforms," he said. "It has urged the acceptance of its high wage philosophy in order to establish a balance in the production and use of manufactured goods and as essential to the preservation of the American standard of living.

"It is no longer necessary to dwell upon the origin, growth and expansion of the organized labor movement upon the American continent in order to justify its existence. Its aims, purposes and achievements and other organizations movements stand in sharp contrast to the aims, purposes and achievements of other organizations formed for definite and concrete purposes."

"Class Divisions Teabood

He pointed out that "labor steadfastly refused to isolate itself from other groups of American citizens, * * * in our work and emphasis. Because it firmly believed that the success of the Republic and a republican form of government depended upon the establishment and maintenance of democracy and our free democratic institutions. This has been the basis of our nonpartisan political policy which has thus far been steadfastly maintained and followed by the American Federation of Labor.

Public Schools Supported

"Labor's support of our public schools was cited as one of the distinct achievements of the workers. "Labor has always stood as a guardian of our common school system," he said, "through its determination to preserve and protect this great democratic institution it has made a great contribution to American civilization."

Social Welfare Legislation

"Through organized labor efforts has secured the enactment of legislation prohibiting the employment of children in industry and the enactment of other forms of social justice legislation designed to prevent women exploitation of industry and the dependents of injured and slain employes. The whole effort which Labor collectively has made in the advancement and promotion of humanitarian ideals and social and economic advancement has been in the interest of a progressive civilization.

Idealism and Self-Interest

"It is the purpose of Labor, as well as its desire, to co-operate with all agencies of American civilization in the development of higher educational standards, in the enlargement of educational opportunities for children and adults, to reduce illiteracy to a minimum and to do all in its power to help to improve the economic and living conditions of the masses of the people and to further the protection and use of manufactured commodities.

"It seeks to place an increased valuation upon idealism and upon the enlargement and development of the spiritual life of the Nation.

"We wish to strengthen the forces which make for enlightened civilization.

"Labor will always champion that which is right, sound and constructive in our social and economic life and will oppose that which is wrong and destructive in governmental and industrial policies. It does not seek to revolutionize modern civilization.

"It bids us hold fast to the tenets and precepts upon which our civilization is based so that we may go forward, building and creating a higher and more culture foundation for the benefit of the human race."

Folly of Imposing Lower Wages On Thousands of Government Employes

By HON. FRED A. BRITTEN
Member of Congress from Illinois

(From a speech in opposition to the bill, sponsored by the Economy Committee of the House of Representatives, which sought to impose an 11 per cent pay reduction on Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year.)

Surely, while this economy hysteria is going on we are entitled to suggest that our hundreds of thousands of Federal employes all live or work in the United States; that we are going to be existing here.

It is true that we should think of ourselves first. It is true, as the country has come from Iowa has said, we should think of business and business conditions; but it is also true that we hold in the palm of our hands the destiny for the next year, the activity, the life, the happiness, the welfare of hundreds of thousands of employes of the Government. They are our principal charge and we must consider their welfare, their happiness, their national asset.

Mr. Chairman, I do not propose to allow myself to be stampeded by a lot of this silly hysteria that has been going on in this House

Federal Wage Cut Reduces Buying Power

By HON. CLYDE KELLY
Member of Congress from Pennsylvania

(From a speech in opposition to the bill, sponsored by the Economy Committee of the House of Representatives, which sought to impose an 11 per cent pay reduction on Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year.)

I have returned this morning after a campaign of two months' duration in many parts of the world, a workshop that was filled with the sound of industry, the activity, the shops still there, able to produce abundantly, but the purchasing power of workers was destroyed, there is no purchasing power left among the people. Industry is paralyzed because of the lack of production.

Now you come here and ask that the United States Government accept the counsel of defeat, embrace the cult of despair and say, "We are the wrong now we must go down farther still." My friends, there is no bottom to these quicksands. Make this 11 per cent cut and you are on the toboggan slide. You will have to cut again in the future.

I have just returned from the capitals of the world, a workshop that was filled with the sound of industry, the activity, the shops still there, able to produce abundantly, but the purchasing power of workers was destroyed, there is no purchasing power left among the people. Industry is paralyzed because of the lack of production.

Now you come here and ask that the United States Government accept the counsel of defeat, embrace the cult of despair and say, "We are the wrong now we must go down farther still."

No Time to Reduce Federal Wage Scale

By HON. FIORELLO H. LaGUARDIA
Member of Congress from New York

(From a speech in opposition to the bill, sponsored by the Economy Committee of the House of Representatives, which sought to impose an 11 per cent pay reduction on Federal employes receiving more than $1,000 per year.)

The gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Pou, stated that word had been received from Europe, from foreign countries, that we were about to reduce the wages of the employes. Indeed, is a startling piece of information! Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if that is true, we must deal with that subject on its merits and not make the underpaid employes of the Government pay the debts of Europe.

I submit to every member of the House the repeated statements made by the President of the United States that this was no time to reduce the wage scale; that this was no time to lower the purchasing power of the American people; and yet, disregarding all that admonition, disregarding every sound principle of economics, here, in a play to the boxes—not a play to the galleries but to a play to the boxes—there is brought forth a bill of this kind.